

## **Letters of Recognition- Kara Tvedt, Missouri Department of Conservation**

Nutrient enrichment and associated water quality and aesthetic issues are a concern for managers and the public across the state.

MDC Fisheries Biologist Kara Tvedt has been developing new tools to address nutrient enrichment using floating wetlands- structures anchored into impoundments and planted with native vegetation. The plants take up nitrogen and reduce nutrient loads, while the roots provide shade, shelter, and food for aquatic invertebrates and fish. The terrestrial portion of these floating wetlands provide basking areas for reptiles and amphibians, pollinator habitat, and sites for nesting birds. Kara's efforts to design and implement floating islands are paying off- recent efforts at Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery in Branson reduced nutrient levels to the point no algae treatments were needed during 2023.

Kara's work also provides an opportunity for students and the public to be involved in projects which improve water quality and aquatic habitat, as they continue to develop, refine, and implement floating island projects in southwest Missouri. Kara's efforts provide communities a tangible way of improving the health of water bodies they use and enjoy. I am proud to recognize Kara's ongoing efforts on behalf of the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.